Notes on CTIA Georgetwon Convention 11/23/4/ 73 HW 11/25/73

In every sense it was a disaster some parts of which I rather enjoyed. It was also a rather remarkable self-disclosure by Solkinick and his gang(s), who started violence the first day. Their threat of it the second day forced granting them a small convention of their own at the end. I did not go into it. I heard it was insane even for Skolnick. I appear to have joined his list of CIA agents. Once when I looked in for someome Don Freed was participating in his rump convention.

In fact, I was inside the hall as little as possible, at the opening long enough to be polite and hear Bud's opening remarks, then for Lesar's, and the next day for the pnale on the media, of which I was part, but when Berkeley's time came I lfet, openly, and stayed out until he was through. Cook did not show up. Lane was not present.

The opening session had close to 500 people. The number dwindled with each session. The seem to have expected more for the Saturday meeting. I would have also.

The opening day had good TV presence. I am unaware of coverage, electronic or TV. Pacifica was there, I presume interviewing all the nots. I did not speak to them. Meaning they had no interest in me because I initiated speaking to Neil Strawser of CBS only, to give him a message for George Herman. Hanrahan covered all of both sessions for the Post, whose stories I have not seen. It cannot be favorable and honest. At Bud's party Friday night Paul Velanetine, who had been assigned to cover the Archives obscenity, tole mt a colum had been turned in, to which he contributed about a graft at the end only. But it would seem likely that the most responsible reporting would devote the space to what had least if anything to do with the JFK and other assassinations, like O'Toole's gadget. If this is the case, we will be better off, such was the nature of what was said and those saying it.

Jim Brown introduced me to Robert K. Brown, who introduced me to Andrew St. George, who I had mets several years ago. He and I both recalled that brief meeting. He remembered what I did not, the name of Der Spiegel's correspondent. The three of us spent much friendly time together. Andy is to send me a machete with a scabbard. He has a collection. I expressed a preference not for one of his more prized, more fancy ones. Bob said he wants to send me a bouble-bitted Colorado ax. I demurred, expressing a preference for a middle-sized one, having a regular (for hereabouts) ax and a boy-scout model. This represents the friendliness of the relation shpp we established, which kind of blew minds, particularly of the young woman who was from Bostom's The Real Paper. A little for Lsear, who was present for some. Brown gave me a xerox of his anti-CIA book, which he can't get published. Lesar is xeroxing. He or Kabak, both to get copies. I think Ed was a little surprised at the easy relationship I established with these ttwo. Brown smiled and agreed when, on introducing him to Jennie Gelber of The Real Paper I said ,"He is what you would call a fascist." The three of us spent a large part of Friday afternoon together and more than a little that night at Bud's party. I agther that Andy is content with the job Bud did for him, under some difficulty, before the Symington committee, which seems to have given Andy a rough time in its efforts to protect the CIA in executive session. Andy has contact with Martinez, but not direct contact. He was unaware of means by which he might be able to establish direct contact. His eyes opened wide as I told him how. In return, if it works, he is to do some questioning for me. I think this quiet telling him what he did not know when he is so proud of his expertise and among his own, made him ab bit respectful. He or Brown or both indicated a suspicion about Szulc. Both know him and rather enjoy his showing up at crises always accompanied by attractive women. One said he did not retire from the Times but was quietly fired aver some undisclosed fiasco having to do with his WG reporting, something to do with Florida, Cubans or both. It is not unlikely I will hear further from both. When I told Andy I could not afford phone calls he wrote his office number out and told me to call reverse. Brown had looked me up by phone in the past. It is not impossible they will be able to help me carry my Hunt knowledge further.

Among the violent act of the Skolnickery was the atealing of Jerry Policoff's attache case. After they examined it they let Bud's people know where they left it. On the elevator. They also cut Robert Groden off between some of them so they could photograph him. Crazy!